

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No.: HM-625PCT

Applicant(s) : Klaus Frommann, et al
Serial No. : 10/534,221
Filed : October 24, 2005
For : METHOD AND DEVICE FOR DESCALING AND/OR CLEANING
A METAL CASTING
Examiner : Caitlin Anne Fogarty
Art Unit : 1793

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

Applicant wishes to call the attention of the Examiner to the references identified on the enclosed form PTO-1449 which were cited in a Polish Office Action issued on November 24, 2009, in a corresponding Polish patent application. Applicant does not admit that any of these references constitute prior art.

Applicant hereby states that these references are submitted after the issuance of a first office action but before issuance of a final office action. Applicant also states that the references are submitted with three months from the date on which they were brought to the Applicant's attention. No fee is required at this time.

German reference DE3705603 relates to a method for descaling metallic rolled products, especially for descaling metal strip, the superficial layer of scale on the rolled products being chipped off and vaporised by subjecting it to a brief thermal shock in a vacuum by means of an electron beam matched to the thickness of the layer of scale, and the scale chipped off then being removed mechanically. The invention furthermore relates to an apparatus for carrying out the method, comprising a pay-out reel (1) and a take-up reel (2) around which the metal strip (3) is wound, a device (4), arranged between the reels (1, 2), for firing the electron beam at the surfaces of the metal strip (3), a vacuum chamber (5) surrounding the device (4) for firing the electron beam and the length of steel strip (3) at which the beam is to be fired, and a scale removal device (6) arranged between the device (4) for firing the electron beam and the take-up reel (2).

With the submission of this admitted prior art, applicant thus complies with the duty of disclosure as set forth at 37 CFR 1.56.

Respectfully submitted,

FK:ml

January 27, 2010

Encls: PTO-1449

w/twenty-three **(23)**
references

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 27, 2010.

January 27, 2010

Friedrich Kueffner